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United Nations

Commission on Science and Technology for Development

Report on the fifteenth session (21-25 May 2012)

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Commission on Science and Technology for Development

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Note

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Summary

At its fifteenth session, the Commission on Science and Technology for Development undertook a review of the progress made in the implementation of and follow-up to the outcomes of the World Summit on the Information Society at the regional and international levels. In addition, it considered two priority themes, "innovation, research, technology transfer for mutual advantage, entrepreneurship and collaborative development in the information society" and "open access, virtual science libraries, geospatial analysis and other complementary information and communications technology and science, technology, engineering and mathematics assets to address development issues, with particular attention to education".

The session included two ministerial round tables, one on "review of progress made in the implementation of World Summit on the Information Society outcomes" and another on "harnessing science and technology for development". The session also included a panel on "Extending rural access-universal service and rural build out — Version 2.0". More than 15 Member States were represented at the ministerial level. Participants also included heads or representatives of international organizations of the United Nations system, as well as representatives of civil society and business entities.

In reviewing the progress of World Summit on the Information Society implementation, the participants highlighted the following key issues: the rapid growth in mobile telephony since 2005 and the advent of new services and applications, including m-health, mobile transactions, e-government, e-business and developmental services, provide great potential to the development of the information society, while at the same time, many developing countries lack affordable access to information and communications technologies (ICTs), and for the majority of the poor, the promise of science and technology, including ICTs, remains unfulfilled. Developing countries face impediments in a number of important areas, which include, inter alia, resources, infrastructure, education, capacity, investment and connectivity, technology ownership, standards and flows.

There is a growing digital divide in the availability, affordability, quality of access and use of broadband between high-income countries and other regions, with least developed countries and Africa as a continent lagging behind the rest of the world. Participants observed that in some cases the digital divide is also changing in character, from one based on whether access is available to one based on the quality of access, information and skills that users can obtain, and the value they can derive from it, and recognized in this regard that there is a need to prioritize the use of ICTs through innovative approaches, including multi-stakeholder approaches, within national and regional development strategies.

The information and communications technology (ICT) landscape has changed dramatically since the World Summit on the Information Society. Some of the issues that were not central during the two phases of the Summit continue to emerge. Participants highlighted some of those issues, such as: the potential of ICTs to combat climate change; social networking; virtualization and cloud computing; and the protection of online privacy and the empowerment and protection of vulnerable groups of society, in particular children and young people, particularly against cyberexploitation and abuse.

Participants urged all stakeholders to adopt appropriate actions to bridge the digital divide and prioritize the development of innovative approaches that would stimulate the provision of universal access to affordable broadband infrastructure for developing countries. They also called on all stakeholders to provide adequate resources, enhanced capacity-building and transfer of technology to developing countries, particularly the least developed countries.

With regard to the overall review of World Summit on the Information Society implementation, the Commission reaffirmed the role of the General Assembly, and looked forward to the decision by the Assembly on the modalities for this review process at its sixty-seventh session. The Commission recommends that, subject to the decision by the General Assembly, an appropriate process should be launched, drawing from the experience of the two phases of the World Summit on the Information Society.

The Commission urged the Secretary-General to ensure the continued funding of the Internet Governance Forum and its structures in preparation for the seventh and future meetings of the Forum. The Commission took note with appreciation of the report of its Working Group on Improvements to the Internet Governance Forum and expressed its gratitude to all its members and to all Member States and other relevant stakeholders that have submitted inputs to the Working Group consultation process.

With respect to the issue of enhanced cooperation on public policy issues pertaining to the Internet, the Commission took note of the open consultation convened by the Chair of the Commission, held in Geneva on 18 May 2012, in response to the request of the General Assembly. It decided to forward the report of the Chair to the General Assembly, at its sixty-seventh session for information purposes.

In addressing the priority theme, "innovation, research, technology transfer for mutual advantage, entrepreneurship and collaborative development in the information society", participants concluded with several calls for action to national governments and the international community. They encouraged national governments to foster a culture of innovation through mechanisms such: as the creation of awards and mass media campaigns; the provision of encouragement and support to efforts aimed at learning and capacity development at the firm and industry levels through the provision of an enabling environment; promotion of the development of ICT platforms to enable participation in international research networks and to derive benefits from the opportunities for collaborative learning; promotion of national policies to encourage the use of ICTs; and the establishment of programmes for the improvement of human resources in this field.

Participants encouraged the Commission on Science and Technology for Development and the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) to raise awareness among policymakers about the process of innovation and to identify particular opportunities for developing countries to benefit from such innovation. In addition, they called for the analysis and sharing of evidence on the development of innovative capacities, including at the firm level, to understand the social and economic dimensions of those processes and provide insights for the development of public policy.

In addressing the priority theme, "Open access, virtual science libraries, geospatial analysis and other complementary information and communications technology and science, technology, engineering and mathematics assets to address development issues, with particular attention to education" discussion focused on the challenges faced by smallholder farmers in developing countries. It was recognized that a shift was needed from conventional monocrops to sustainable regenerative systems. It was further recognized that smallholders should be at the centre of decisions on policy and technology. Among smallholder farmers, a greater emphasis should be placed on women, who play a key role in agriculture but who often face challenges in moving beyond subsistence farming, since they lack access to key resources.

Governments were encouraged to foster partnerships with other stakeholders to overcome basic infrastructural constraints, such as electricity and other services, that limit access to and use of ICT resources, with particular attention given to locally adapted solutions that can be scaled up regionally. Participants called for greater collaboration to address the content divide by increasing accessibility to online scientific publications and content in local languages. Governments could encourage their national research agencies and foundations to make data and research results available in the public domain in formats that are open and accessible. International collaboration should be encouraged in the dissemination of digitized publications resulting from publicly funded research and in making them freely available and easily accessible online.

Participants highlighted the importance of the logistical and financial viability of virtual science libraries, in particular those that provide a platform to facilitate networking among scientists across geographic boundaries. They also encouraged the formation of national research and education networks, which contribute to networking among scientists.

Participants pointed out that geographic information systems and geospatial analysis are used in many sectors of society and have important applications in addressing development challenges; however, they remain underutilized. The Commission called for the better integration of GIS and spatial thinking into national education programmes through the strengthening of curricula and teacher training. Other areas of action include: establishing bodies dedicated to obtaining, storing and disseminating geographic data; making geographic information system data available for public use at the lowest cost; and involving the private sector in the process of increasing technology openness for geospatial data.

The Commission on Science and Technology for Development and UNCTAD were invited to provide a forum for dialogue and for the sharing of best practices and experiences to identify and to recommend ways and appropriate measures to promote innovation, research and development, new knowledge creation, technology transfer, as well as information and communications technologies for capacity-building in science technology and engineering education and research and entrepreneurship for the benefit of developing countries, and, in this context, explore ways to expand cooperation among all countries with particular attention to sharing available resources online.

Participants took note of UNCTAD report on applying a gender lens to science, technology and innovation (E/CN.16/2011/CRP.3), and stressed the need to integrate a gender perspective into all policies and programmes related to science, technology

and innovation. They encouraged the Gender Advisory Board of the Commission to provide inputs to its policy deliberations and documentation, and invited the Gender Advisory Board to report on progress at the annual sessions of the Commission and to consider integrating a gender perspective into reviews of science, technology and innovation policy, where appropriate.

A panel discussion was devoted to access to broadband services in rural and underserved regions and communities. Although mobile communications have made important inroads and market liberalization measures have contributed to universal access, broadband access remains a challenge. To increase access would require multi-stakeholder cooperation. The incentives have often been insufficient for private carriers to reach out to underserved regions. In addition, the fact that telecentres often lack sustainability suggests the need to rethink community public access. An important challenge is to incentivize the telecommunications industry to take a longer-term view in developing underserved regions and communities as potential clients. Universal service funds have made an important contribution in this area, and much progress has been made in closing the gap in universal service. Stimulating demand requires the building of both capacity and awareness. Ensuring broadband access in schools and supporting e-government and e-health are important issues, while content development is crucial. Citing experiences from Colombia, Ghana and Pakistan, panellists pointed out that important objectives in increasing broadband access include sustainability, efficiency and community empowerment.

Under the agenda item "science, technology and innovation policy reviews", participants took note with appreciation of the high quality of such reviews prepared by UNCTAD for El Salvador and Peru and pointed out the need to monitor the implementation of science, technology and innovation policy reviews by countries. They encouraged the Commission and UNCTAD to develop metrics to assess progress made by countries in implementing science, technology and innovation policy review recommendations for developing science, technology and innovation policies and other recommendations they have acted upon and, if so requested by those countries, to conduct periodic reviews to monitor such progress.

The Commission selected two priority themes for its sixteenth session, namely, "science, technology and innovation for sustainable cities and peri-urban communities" and "Internet broadband for an inclusive digital society".

The Commission also elected the Bureau of its sixteenth session:

Chair:

Miguel Palomino de la Gala (Peru)

Vice-Chairs:

Thato Regina Mosisili (Lesotho)
Andrew Reynolds (United States of America)
Peter Major (Hungary)
Mohammad Kazem Asayesh Talab Tousi (Islamic Republic of Iran)

In chapter I of the present report, the Commission recommends to the Economic and Social Council the adoption of two draft resolutions, one on "science and technology for development" and one on "assessment of the progress made in the implementation of and follow-up to the outcomes of the World Summit on the Information Society". For further information on the session, please see http://www.unctad.org/cstd.

[8 June 2012]

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Chapter I

Matters calling for action by the Economic and Social Council or brought to its attention

A. Draft resolutions for adoption by the Council

1. The Commission on Science and Technology for Development recommends to the Economic and Social Council the adoption of the following draft resolutions:

Draft resolution I
Assessment of the progress made in the implementation of and follow-up to the outcomes of the World Summit on the Information Society*

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling the outcome documents of the World Summit on the Information Society,[1]

Recalling also its resolution 2006/46 of 28 July 2006 on the follow-up to the World Summit and review of the Commission on Science and Technology for Development and the mandate that it gave to the Commission,

Recalling further its resolution 2011/16 of 26 July 2011 on the assessment of the progress made in the implementation of and follow-up to the outcomes of the World Summit,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 66/184 of 22 December 2011 on information and communications technologies for development,

Taking note with satisfaction of the report of the Secretary-General on the progress made in the implementation of and follow-up to the outcomes of the World Summit at the regional and international levels,[2]

Taking note of the report of the Secretary-General entitled "Improvements and innovations in existing financing mechanisms: information and communications technology for development",[3]

Noting the submission of the report entitled *Implementing WSIS Outcomes: Experience to Date and Prospects for the Future* by the Commission for Science and Technology for Development[4] as an information document,

Expressing its appreciation to the Secretary-General of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development for his role in helping to ensure completion of the aforementioned reports in a timely manner,

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* For the discussion, see chap. II.

[1] See A/C.2/59/3, annex, and A/60/687. The outcome documents are also available from http://www.itu.int/WSIS/index.html.

[2] A/67/66-E/2012/49.

[3] E/CN.16/2010/3.

[4] UNCTAD/DTL/STICT/2011/3.

Taking stock: reviewing the implementation of the outcomes of the World Summit on the Information Society

1. *Notes* the ongoing implementation of the outcomes of the World Summit on the Information Society, emphasizing in particular its multi-stakeholder nature, the roles played in this regard by leading agencies as action line facilitators and the roles of the regional commissions and the United Nations Group on the Information Society, and expresses its appreciation for the role of the Commission on Science and Technology for Development in assisting the Economic and Social Council as the focal point in the system-wide follow-up to the World Summit;

2. *Takes note of* the respective reports of many United Nations entities, with their own executive summaries, submitted as inputs for the elaboration of the annual report of the Secretary-General to the Commission, and published on the website of the Commission as mandated in Economic and Social Council resolution 2007/8 of 25 July 2007, and recalls the importance of close coordination among the leading action line facilitators and with the secretariat of the Commission;

3. *Notes* the implementation of the outcomes of the World Summit at the regional level facilitated by the regional commissions, as observed in the report of the Secretary-General on the progress made in the implementation of and follow-up to the outcomes of the World Summit at the regional and international levels,[2] including the steps taken in this respect, and emphasizes the need to continue to address issues of specific interest to each region, focusing on the challenges and obstacles that each may be facing with regard to the implementation of all goals and principles established by the World Summit, with particular attention to information and communications technology for development;

4. *Reiterates* the importance of maintaining a process of coordinating the multi-stakeholder implementation of the outcomes of the World Summit through effective tools, with the goal of exchanging information among action line facilitators, identifying issues that need improvement and discussing the modalities of reporting the overall implementation process, encourages all stakeholders to continue to contribute information to the stocktaking database maintained by the International Telecommunication Union on the implementation of the goals established by the World Summit, and invites United Nations entities to update information on their initiatives in the stocktaking database;

5. *Highlights* the urgent need for the incorporation of the recommendations of the outcome documents of the World Summit in the revised guidelines for United Nations country teams on preparing the common country assessments and United Nations Development Assistance Frameworks, including the addition of an information and communications technology for development component;

6. *Notes with satisfaction* the holding in Geneva from 14 to 18 May 2012 of the World Summit on the Information Society Forum 2012, organized by the International Telecommunication Union, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development and the United Nations Development Programme, as a multi-stakeholder platform for the coordination of implementation of the outcomes of the World Summit and to facilitate the implementation of the World Summit action lines;

7. *Calls upon* all States, in building the information society, to take steps to avoid and to refrain from taking any unilateral measure not in accordance with international law and the Charter of the United Nations that impedes the full achievement of economic and social development by the population of the affected countries and that hinders their well-being;

8. *Welcomes* the progress highlighted in the report of the Secretary-General on the progress made in the implementation of and follow-up to the outcomes of the World Summit,[2] in particular that the rapid growth in mobile telephony since 2005 has meant that more than half of the world's inhabitants will have access to information and communications technologies within their reach, in line with one of the World Summit targets; the value of this progress is enhanced by the advent of new services and applications, including m-health, mobile transactions, e-government, e-business and developmental services, which offer great potential to the development of the information society;

9. *Notes with great concern* that many developing countries lack affordable access to information and communications technologies, and that for the majority of the poor, the promise of science and technology, including information and communications technologies, remains unfulfilled, and emphasizes the need to effectively harness technology, including information and communications technologies, to bridge the digital divide;

10. *Recognizes* that information and communications technologies present new opportunities and challenges and that there is a pressing need to address the major impediments that developing countries face in accessing the new technologies, such as sufficient resources, infrastructure, education, capacity, investment and connectivity and issues related to technology ownership, standards and flows, and in this regard calls upon all stakeholders to provide adequate resources, enhanced capacity-building and transfer of technology to developing countries, particularly the least developed countries;

11. *Also recognizes* the rapid growth in broadband access networks, especially in developed countries, and notes with concern that there is a growing digital divide in the availability, affordability, quality of access and use of broadband between high-income countries and other regions, with least developed countries and Africa as a continent lagging behind the rest of the world;

12. *Further recognizes* that the transition to a mobile-led communications environment is leading to significant changes in operators' business models and that it requires significant rethinking of the ways in which individuals and communities make use of networks and devices, of government strategies and of ways in which communications networks can be used to achieve development objectives;

13. *Recognizes* that, even with all the developments and the improvement observed in some respects, in numerous developing countries information and communications technologies and their applications are still not affordable to the majority of people, particularly those living in rural areas;

14. *Also recognizes* that the number of Internet users is growing and that in some instances the digital divide is also changing in character from one based on whether access is available to one based on the quality of access, information and skills that users can obtain, and the value they can derive from it, and recognizes in this regard that there is a need to prioritize the use of information and

communications technologies through innovative approaches, including multi-stakeholder approaches, within national and regional development strategies;

15. *Welcomes* the outcomes of the Broadband Leadership Summit, hosted by the Broadband Commission in Geneva in October 2011, as a unique event that united key decision makers and helped foster relationships and policies to boost the roll-out and deployment of broadband;

16. *Notes* that while a solid foundation for capacity-building in information and communications technology has been laid in many areas with regard to building the information society, there is still a need for continuing effort to address the ongoing challenges, especially for developing countries and the least developed countries, and draws attention to the positive impact of broadened capacity development that involves institutions, organizations and entities dealing with information and communications technologies and Internet governance issues;

17. *Recognizes* the need to focus on capacity development policies and sustainable support to further enhance the impact of activities and initiatives at the national and local levels aimed at providing advice, services and support with a view to building an inclusive, people-centred and development-oriented information society;

18. *Notes* that topics that were not central at the first and second phases of the World Summit in 2003 and 2005 continue to emerge, such as the potential of information and communications technologies to combat climate change, social networking, virtualization and cloud computing, the protection of online privacy and the empowerment and protection, especially against cyber exploitation and abuse, of vulnerable groups of society, in particular children and young people;

19. *Reiterates* the importance of information and communications technology indicators as a monitoring and evaluation tool for measuring the digital divide among countries and within societies and in informing decision makers when formulating policies and strategies for social, cultural and economic development, and emphasizes that the standardization and harmonization of reliable and regularly updated information and communications technology indicators capturing the performance, efficiency, affordability and quality of goods and services is essential for implementing information and communications technology policies;

Internet governance

20. *Reaffirms* paragraph 20 of its resolution 2011/16 of 26 July 2011 and General Assembly resolution 66/184 of 22 December 2011;

21. *Reaffirms also* paragraphs 34 to 37 and paragraphs 67 to 72 of the Tunis Agenda for the Information Society;[5]

Enhanced cooperation

22. *Recalls* resolution 66/184 by which the General Assembly invited the Chair of the Commission on Science and Technology for Development to convene, in conjunction with the fifteenth session of the Commission, a one-day open, inclusive and interactive meeting involving all Member States and other

[5] See A/60/687.

stakeholders, particularly those from developing countries, including the private sector, civil society and international organizations, with a view to identifying a shared understanding of enhanced cooperation on public policy issues pertaining to the Internet, in accordance with paragraphs 34 and 35 of the Tunis Agenda, and requested the Secretary-General to include information on the outcome of the meeting when preparing his report on the status of the implementation of and follow-up to the present resolution;

23. *Takes note* of the open consultation on enhanced cooperation on public policy issues pertaining to the Internet convened by the Chair of the Commission on Science and Technology for Development held in Geneva on 18 May 2012;

24. *Decides* to forward, for information purposes, the report of the Chair of the Commission on Science and Technology for Development on the outcome of the meeting to the General Assembly at its sixty-seventh session, while noting that there is no consensus on the accuracy and balance of how the views expressed in the meeting are reflected in the report;

Internet Governance Forum

25. *Takes note* that the Working Group on Improvements to the Internet Governance Forum has successfully completed its task;

26. *Takes note with appreciation* of the report of the Working Group on Improvements to the Internet Governance Forum and expresses its gratitude to all its members for their time and valuable efforts in this endeavour as well as to all Member States and other relevant stakeholders that submitted inputs to the Working Group consultation process;

The road ahead

27. *Urges* the United Nations entities still not actively cooperating in the implementation of the outcomes of the World Summit through the United Nations system and in its follow-up to take the necessary steps and commit to a people-centred, inclusive and development-oriented information society, and to catalyse the attainment of the internationally agreed development goals, including those contained in the United Nations Millennium Declaration;[6]

28. *Calls upon* all stakeholders to keep the goal of bridging the digital divide, in its different forms, an area of priority concern, put into effect sound strategies that contribute to the development of e-government and continue to focus on pro-poor information and communications technology policies and applications, including access to broadband at the grass-roots level, with a view to narrowing the digital divide among and within countries;

29. *Urges* all stakeholders to prioritize the development of innovative approaches that will stimulate the provision of universal access to affordable broadband infrastructure for developing countries and the use of relevant broadband services in order to ensure the development of an inclusive, development-oriented and people-centred information society, and to minimize the digital divide;

[6] See General Assembly resolution 55/2.

30. *Calls upon* international and regional organizations to continue to assess and report on a regular basis on the universal accessibility of nations to information and communications technologies, with the aim of creating equitable opportunities for the growth of the information and communications technology sectors of developing countries;

31. *Urges* all countries to make concrete efforts to fulfil their commitments under the Monterrey Consensus of the International Conference on Financing for Development;[7]

32. *Calls upon* United Nations organizations and other relevant organizations and forums, in accordance with the outcomes of the World Summit, to periodically review and modify the methodologies for information and communications technology indicators, taking into account different levels of development and national circumstances, and therefore:

(a) *Takes note with appreciation* of the work of the Partnership on Measuring Information and Communications Technology for Development;

(b) *Calls upon* the Partnership on Measuring Information and Communications Technology for Development to further its work on measuring the impact of information and communications technologies, particularly in developing countries, by creating practical guidelines, methodologies and indicators;

(c) *Takes note of* the ninth World Telecommunication/ICT Indicators meeting that enhanced the capacity of governments in the collection of relevant data at the national level on information and communications technologies;

(d) *Calls upon* United Nations organizations and other relevant organizations and forums to study the implications of the current world economic situation on information and communications technology deployment, in particular information and communications technology connectivity through broadband, and its economic sustainability;

(e) *Encourages* governments to collect relevant data at the national level on information and communications technologies, to share information about country case studies and to collaborate with other countries in capacity-building exchange programmes;

(f) *Also encourages* United Nations organizations and other relevant organizations and forums to promote impact assessment of information and communications technologies on poverty and in key sectors to identify the knowledge and skills needed to boost impacts;

(g) *Calls upon* international development partners to provide financial support to further facilitate capacity-building and technical assistance in developing countries;

33. *Invites* the international community to make voluntary contributions to the special trust fund established by the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development to support the review and assessment work of the Commission on

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[7] *Report of the International Conference on Financing for Development, Monterrey, Mexico, 18-22 March 2002* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.02.II.A.7), chap. I, resolution 1, annex.

Science and Technology for Development regarding follow-up to the World Summit on the Information Society, while acknowledging with appreciation the financial support provided by the Governments of Finland and Switzerland to this fund;

34. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the Commission, on a yearly basis, a report on the implementation of the recommendations contained in Economic and Social Council resolutions on the assessment of the quantitative and qualitative progress made in the implementation of and follow-up to the outcomes of the World Summit on the Information Society;

35. *Urges* the Secretary-General to ensure the continued functioning of the Internet Governance Forum and its structures in preparation for the seventh meeting of the Forum, to be held in Baku from 6 to 9 November 2012, and future meetings of the Forum;

36. *Notes* the necessity to appoint the Special Adviser to the Secretary-General on Internet Governance and the Executive Coordinator of the Internet Governance Forum;

37. *Recalls* paragraph 111 of the Tunis Agenda for the Information Society,[5] which requests the General Assembly to make an overall review of the implementation of World Summit on the Information Society outcomes in 2015, and paragraph 106 of the Tunis Agenda, according to which the World Summit on the Information Society implementation and follow-up should be an integral part of the United Nations integrated follow-up to major United Nations conferences;

38. *Also recalls* paragraph 10 of General Assembly resolution 66/184, in which the Assembly reaffirmed its role in the overall review of the implementation of the outcomes of the World Summit on the Information Society, to be held by the end of 2015, as recognized in paragraph 111 of the Tunis Agenda for the Information Society, and decided to consider the modalities for this review process at its sixty-seventh session;

39. *Takes note* of the open and inclusive consultation process of the United Nations Group on the Information Society which has been taking place on the overall review of the implementation of the World Summit on the Information Society outcomes and also takes note of the role of the Commission on Science and Technology for Development contained in Economic and Social Council resolution 2006/46 in assisting the Economic and Social Council as the focal point in the system-wide follow-up, in particular the review and assessment of progress made in implementing the outcomes of the World Summit;

40. *Recommends* that consistent with the World Summit on the Information Society process and subject to the decision by the General Assembly, an appropriate preparatory process should be launched drawing from the experience of the two phases of the World Summit;

41. *Notes with appreciation* the report on the stocktaking of activities related to the World Summit on the Information Society, which serves as one of the valuable tools for assisting with the follow-up, beyond the conclusion of the Tunis phase of the World Summit;

42. *Reiterates* the importance of sharing best practices at the global level, and while recognizing excellence in the implementation of the projects and initiatives which further the goals of the World Summit, encourages all stakeholders

to nominate their projects to the annual World Summit Project Prizes, as an integral part of the World Summit stocktaking process, while noting the report on the World Summit on the Information Society success stories;

43. *Takes note with appreciation* of the efforts of the United Nations Group on the Information Society directed towards incorporation of the recommendations of the outcome documents of the World Summit in the revised guidelines for United Nations country teams on preparing the common country assessments and United Nations Development Assistance Frameworks, including the addition of an information and communications technology for development component;

44. *Recognizes* the enabling role of information and communications technologies for achieving the Millennium Development Goals, reiterates the importance of the contribution of the World Summit on the Information Society process to the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals.

Draft resolution II
Science and technology for development*

The Economic and Social Council,

Recognizing the role of the Commission on Science and Technology for Development as the United Nations torch-bearer for science, technology and innovation for development,

Also recognizing the critical role of science, technology and innovation in building and maintaining national competitiveness in the global economy, addressing global challenges and in realizing sustainable development,

Further recognizing the seminal role that information and communications technologies play in promoting and empowering science, technology and innovation for development,

Recalling the outcome document of the 2005 World Summit, which recognizes that science and technology, including information and communications technologies, are vital for the achievement of the internationally agreed development goals, and reaffirming the commitments contained therein,[8]

Recalling also that the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development is the secretariat of the Commission,

Recalling further the work of the Commission on "science, technology and engineering for innovation and capacity-building in education and research", and "development-orientated policies for a socioeconomically inclusive information society, including policies relating to access, infrastructure, and an enabling environment",

Welcoming the work of the Commission on its two current priority themes, "innovation, research, technology transfer for mutual advantage, entrepreneurship and collaborative development in the information society", and "open access, virtual science libraries, geospatial analysis and other complementary information and

* For the discussion, see chap. III.

[8] See General Assembly resolution A/60/1, para. 60.

communications technology and science, technology, engineering and mathematics assets to address development issues, with particular attention to education",

Recognizing that collaborative learning is central to innovation, technology transfer and entrepreneurship, and involves absorptive and productive capacity-building at the individual and organizational levels,

Also recognizing the work of United Nations institutions, including the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, in analysing the impact of the transfer of technology on trade and development,

Noting that open access and virtual science libraries are two complementary mechanisms to increase and extend knowledge flows and help developing countries to obtain data and research,

Also noting that greater attention needs to be paid to the growing array of online scientific and technical resources relevant to scientific and technical communities worldwide,

Recognizing that the effective introduction of information and communications technologies in education requires not only access to technology but also capacities for science, technology and innovation, absorption and production through development of human resources, educational framework conditions, infrastructure and progressive national policies,

Noting that geographic information systems and geospatial analysis are used in many sectors of society and have important applications in addressing development challenges but remain underutilized for transformational potential,

Recognizing that in its resolution 66/211 on science and technology for development, the General Assembly encouraged the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development to continue to undertake science, technology and innovation policy reviews with a view to assisting developing countries and countries with economies in transition to identify the measures that are needed to integrate science, technology and innovation policies into their national development strategies,

Taking note with appreciation of the high-quality science, technology and innovation policy reviews prepared by the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development for El Salvador and Peru and the emphasis shown on the need to monitor the implementation of science, technology and innovation policy reviews by countries as exemplified in the report by Angola,

Recalling Economic and Social Council decision 2011/235 providing for the extension until 2015 of the Gender Advisory Board, and General Assembly resolutions 66/129, 66/211 and 66/216 addressing, respectively, the improvement of the situation of women in rural areas, barriers to equal access for women and girls to science and technology, and the integration of a gender perspective into development policies and programmes,

Taking note of the report entitled "Applying a gender lens to science, technology and innovation", prepared by the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development in close collaboration with the Gender Advisory Board of the Commission,

Recognizing that it is crucial to understand the means by which people of different genders, ages, socioeconomic situations and organizations build the

capabilities required to achieve greater capacities for entrepreneurship and collaborative development,

Decides to make the following recommendations for consideration by national governments, the Commission and the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development:

(a) Governments, individually and collectively, are encouraged to take into account the findings of the Commission and consider taking the following actions:

(i) *Promote* the development of information and communications technology platforms, involving national research institutes and universities, with a view to participating in international research networks and benefiting from opportunities for collaborative learning;

(ii) *Ensure* that multilateral governance mechanisms and standardization bodies of information and communications technology and global networks are democratic, fair and coherent, with effective participation of developing countries;

(iii) *Promote* national policies to encourage the use of information and comunications technologies, especially those that have been tailored to local needs in their countries, and establish programmes for the improvement of human resources in this field;

(iv) *Foster* partnerships with other stakeholders to overcome basic infrastructural constraints, such as electricity and other services, that limit access to and use of information and comunications technology resources, with particular attention to locally adapted solutions that can be scaled up regionally;

(v) *Collaborate* to address the "content divide" by exploring ways of increasing online scientific publications and accessibility of content in local languages;

(vi) *Encourage* national research agencies and foundations to provide data and research results to the public domain and make them freely available in an open and accessible format;

(vii) *Also encourage* international collaboration in disseminating digitized publications resulting from publicly funded research, making them freely available online and easily accessible;

(viii) *Further encourage*, in partnership with other stakeholders, the logistical and financial viability of virtual science libraries, in particular those that include a platform to facilitate networking among scientists across geographic boundaries and provide an integrated search capability across all available online publications;

(ix) *Encourage* the formation of national research and education networks, which promote networking among scientists, increase collective buying power for online science research services, including access to journals, and result in the sharing of scarce resources;

(x) *Strengthen* secondary and post-secondary curricula to better integrate Geographic Information Systems and fundamental concepts of geography that

enrich spatial thinking into national education programmes and by supporting teachers through training to better integrate Geographic Information System, geography and spatial thinking into their professional development;

(xi) *Establish* bodies dedicated to obtaining, storing and disseminating geographic data, including remote-sensing data, to make Geographic Information System data available for public use at the lowest cost;

(xii) *Involve* the private sector in the process of increasing technology openness for geospatial data; for example, public sector organizations, such as government agencies and libraries, could collaborate with private sector firms to index geospatial information and make it easily searchable and available online;

(xiii) *Promote* the dissemination of successful experiences, including of constraint-based innovations, to foster an innovative culture through mechanisms such as the creation of awards and mass media campaigns;

(xiv) *Encourage and support* efforts aimed at learning and capacity development at the firm and industry levels through the provision of an enabling environment;

(xv) *Also encourage* scientific, research and academic institutions in their countries, especially in developed countries, to collaborate with counterparts in all other countries, with particular attention to those in the least developed countries;

(xvi) *Recognize* the need to continue providing adequate funding and resources for science and technology, particularly in developing countries;

(xvii) *Consider* mechanisms with a view to applying a gender lens in scientific research, from the setting of the agenda to the design and implementation of projects, for example, through the use of quotas and gender-sensitive assessment and evaluation;

(b) The Commission on Science and Technology for Development and the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development are encouraged to:

(i) With respect to the Commission, *continue* in the role of torch-bearer for innovation, to raise awareness among policymakers about the process of innovation and to identify particular opportunities for developing countries to benefit from such innovation; special attention should be placed on new trends in innovation that can offer novel possibilities for developing countries, especially for small and medium enterprises and individual entrepreneurs;

(ii) *Share and analyse* evidence on the development of innovative capacities, including at the firm level, especially for small and medium enterprises, to understand the social and economic dimensions of those processes and provide insights for the development of public policy;

(iii) *Provide* a forum for dialogue and for the sharing of best practices and experiences to identify and recommend ways and appropriate measures to promote innovation, research and development, new knowledge creation and technology transfer, as well as information and communications technologies for capacity-building in science technology and engineering education and research and entrepreneurship for the benefit of developing countries; and, in

this context, explore ways to expand cooperation among all countries with particular attention to sharing available resources online;

(iv) *Develop* metrics to assess progress made by countries to implement science, technology and innovation policy review recommendations for developing science and technology and innovation policies and other recommendations they have acted upon and, if requested by those countries, to conduct periodic reviews to monitor such progress;

(v) *Encourage* the Gender Advisory Board to provide inputs to policy deliberations and documentation of the Commission on Science and Technology for Development, invite the Gender Advisory Board to report on progress at the annual sessions of the Commission, and consider integrating a gender perspective into the science, technology and innovation policy reviews, where appropriate.

B. Draft decision for adoption by the Council

2. The Commission also recommends to the Economic and Social Council the adoption of the following draft decision:

Report of the Commission on Science and Technology for Development on its fifteenth session and provisional agenda and documentation for the sixteenth session of the Commission*

The Economic and Social Council:

(a) Takes note of the report of the Commission on Science and Technology for Development on its fifteenth session;[9]

(b) Approves the provisional agenda and documentation for the sixteenth session of the Commission as set out below.

1. Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters.

2. Progress made in the implementation of and follow-up to the World Summit on the Information Society outcomes at the regional and international levels.

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General

3. Science and technology for development

Priority themes:

(a) Science, technology and innovation for sustainable cities and peri-urban communities.

* For the discussion, see chaps. VII and VIII.

[9] *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2012, Supplement No. 11* (E/2012/31).

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General

(b) Internet broadband for an inclusive digital society

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General

4. Presentation of reports on science, technology and innovation policy reviews.

5. Election of the Chair and other officers for the seventeenth session of the Commission.

6. Provisional agenda and documentation for the seventeenth session of the Commission.

7. Adoption of the report of the Commission on its sixteenth session.

C. Matters brought to the attention of the Council

The following decision adopted by the Commission on Science and Technology for Development is brought to the attention of the Economic and Social Council:

Decision 15/101
Documents considered by the Commission on Science and Technology for Development at its fifteenth session

The Commission on Science and Technology for Development takes note of the following documents:

(a) Report of the Secretary-General on innovation, research, technology transfer for mutual advantage, entrepreneurship and collaborative development in the information society (E/CN.16/2012/2);

(b) Report of the Secretary-General on open access, virtual science libraries, geospatial analysis and other complementary information and communications technology and science, technology, engineering and mathematics assets to address development issues, with particular attention to education (E/CN.16/2012/3).

Chapter II

Progress made in the implementation of and follow-up to the outcomes of the World Summit on the Information Society at the regional and international levels

3. The Commission considered item 2 of its agenda at its 1st, 3rd, 4th, 5th and 9th meetings, on 21, 22, 23 and 25 May 2012. It had before it the following documents.

(a) Report of the Secretary-General on progress made in the implementation of and follow-up to the outcomes of the World Summit on the Information Society at the regional and international levels (A/67/66-E/2012/49);

(b) Report of the Chair of the Working Group on Improvements to the Internet Governance Forum (A/67/65-E/2012/48);

(c) Summary report prepared by the secretariat of UNCTAD on the meeting of the intersessional panel of the Commission, held in Manila from 13 to 15 December 2011 (E/CN.16/2012/CRP.1);

(d) Report of the Chair on the open consultations on enhanced cooperation on international public policy issues pertaining to the Internet (E/CN.16/2012/CRP.2).

4. At the 1st meeting, on 21 May, the head of the secretariat of the Commission on Science and Technology for Development, UNCTAD, introduced the report of the Secretary-General contained in document A/67/66-E/2012/49.

5. At the 3rd meeting, on 22 May, statements were made by Hamadoun Touré, Secretary-General of the International Telecommunication Union (ITU); Jānis Kārkliņš, Assistant Director-General for Communication and Information, United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO); Ali Ghodbani, Chairman and Chief Executive Officer, Tunisie Telecom; and David Souter, ICT Development Associates.

6. Statements were made by the representatives of the Islamic Republic of Iran, Austria, Finland, Tunisia, Portugal, Brazil, South Africa, Saudi Arabia, Cuba and the United States of America.

7. A statement was made by the representative of the Economic Commission for Africa.

8. Statements were also made by the representatives of IT for Change and the Association for Progressive Communications.

9. Also at the 3rd meeting, on 22 May, Peter Major (Hungary), Vice-Chair, introduced the report of the Chair of the Working Group on Improvements to the Internet Governance Forum (A/67/65-E/2012/48).

10. Statements were made by Marília Maciel, Project Leader and Researcher, Centre for Technology and Society, Fundação Getúlio Vargas; Baher Esmat, Manager, Regional Relations (Middle East), Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers; Marilyn Cade, Principal and Chief Executive Officer, MCADE LLC.; and Anriette Esterhuysen, Executive Director, Association for Progressive Communications.

11. At the 4th meeting, on 22 May, the Commission began its discussion on the report of the Chair of the Working Group on Improvements to the Internet Governance Forum and heard statements by the representatives of Egypt, Sri Lanka, the United States of America, Finland, the Islamic Republic of Iran, China, Switzerland, Mexico and Portugal.

12. Statements were also made by the representative of the Economic Commission for Africa and the representative of the International Chamber of Commerce.

13. A statement was made by the representative of the World Federation of Engineering Organizations.

Ministerial round table on the review of progress made in the implementation of the outcomes of the World Summit on the Information Society

14. At its 1st meeting, on 21 May, the Commission convened a ministerial round table on the review of progress made in the implementation of the outcomes of the World Summit on the Information Society, moderated by Hamadoun Touré, Secretary-General of the International Telecommunication Union, in which the following participants took part: Pedro Teta, Vice-Minister of Telecommunications of Angola; Mothae Anthony Maruping, Permanent Representative of Lesotho to the United Nations at Geneva; Anwar A. Elfeitori, Minister of Communications and Information Technology of Libya; Vishnou Gondeea, Acting Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Information and Communications Technology of Mauritius; Hashem Al-Mustafawi Al-Hashemi, Minister Plenipotentiary of Qatar; Ilya Massukh, Deputy Minister of Telecom and Mass Communications of the Russian Federation; and Abdullah A. Al-Darrab, Governor of Saudi Arabia.

15. The Chair made a statement.

16. At the 4th meeting, on 22 May, the Chair made a statement and introduced the report of the Chair on the open consultations on enhanced cooperation on international public policy issues pertaining to the Internet (E/CN.16/2012/CRP.2).

17. The Commission held a briefing on the open consultations on enhanced cooperation on international public policy issues pertaining to the Internet.

18. Presentations were made by Emily Taylor, Internet Governance Consultant; Parminderjeet Singh, Executive Director, Information Technology for Change; and Theresa Swinehart, Director, Global Internet Policy, Verizon Communications.

19. Statements were made by the representatives of Algeria, Saudi Arabia, the Islamic Republic of Iran, India, South Africa, Brazil, the United States of America, the Russian Federation, Portugal, China, Sri Lanka, Finland, Sweden, Switzerland, Austria, Brazil, Canada, Mexico, Peru and France.

20. A statement was also made by the representative of Internet Society.

Action taken by the Commission

Assessment of the progress made in the implementation of and follow-up to the outcomes of the World Summit on the Information Society

21. At its 9th meeting, on 25 May, the Commission had before it a draft resolution, entitled "Assessment of the progress made in the implementation of and follow-up

to the outcomes of the World Summit on the Information Society", submitted by the Vice-Chair, Peter Major (Hungary), and circulated in an informal paper.

22. The Commission was informed that the draft text contained no programme budget implications.

23. The Commission adopted the draft resolution and recommended it to the Economic and Social Council for adoption (see chap. I, sect. A, draft resolution I).

Chapter III

Priority themes:
(a) Innovation, research, technology transfer for mutual advantage, entrepreneurship and collaborative development in the information society
(b) Open access, virtual science libraries, geospatial analysis and other complementary information and communications technology and science, technology, engineering and mathematics assets to address development issues, with particular attention to education

24. The Commission considered item 3 of its agenda at its 2nd, 5th, 6th, 7th and 8th meetings, on 21, 23 and 24 May 2012. It had before it the following documents:

(a) Report of the Secretary-General on innovation, research, technology transfer for mutual advantage, entrepreneurship and collaborative development in the information society (E/CN.16/2012/2);

(b) Report of the Secretary-General on open access, virtual science libraries, geospatial analysis and other complementary information and communications technology and science, technology, engineering and mathematics assets to address development issues, with particular attention to education (E/CN.16/2012/3);

(c) Summary report prepared by the secretariat of UNCTAD on the meeting of the intersessional panel of the Commission, held in Manila from 13 to 15 December 2012 (E/CN.16/2012/CRP.1).

Ministerial round table on "Beyond the Millennium Development Goals: harnessing science and technology to address development challenges"

25. At its 2nd meeting, on 21 May, the Commission held a ministerial round table on "Beyond the Millennium Development Goals: harnessing science and technology to address development challenges", moderated by Gretchen Kalonji, Assistant Director-General for Natural Sciences, UNESCO, in which the following participants took part: Edmée Mansilla Abouattier, Director of Cabinet, Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research of Côte d'Ivoire; Nadia Zakhary, Minister of State for Scientific Research of Egypt; Mario Roger Hernández, Vice-Minister for Trade, Ministry of Economy of El Salvador; Ahmed Mustapha, Deputy Minister for Environment, Science and Technology of Ghana; Maung Wai, Permanent Representative of Myanmar to the United Nations at Geneva; Abdoul Aziz Issa Daouda, Director of Cabinet, Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research of Niger; Abdullah Mohammed Al-Mahrouqi, Director for Innovation Support and Development of Oman; Changez Khan Jamali, Minister for Science and Technology of Pakistan; Nguyen Quan, Minister for Science and Technology of Viet Nam; Bruno Jean Richard Itoua, Minister for Scientific Research of the Congo; Maged Al-Sherbiny, President of the Academy of Scientific Research of Egypt; Pedro Teta, Vice-Minister for Telecommunications of Angola; and Anwar A. Elfeitori, Minister for Communications and Information Technology of Libya.

26. The representatives of Lesotho, the Sudan, Costa Rica, Austria and the United States of America also took part.

27. The representative of the Economic Commission for Africa also participated.

28. The Chair made a statement.

Panel on "Extending rural access-universal service and rural build out — Version 2.0"

29. At its 5th meeting, on 23 May, the Commission held a panel discussion on "Extending rural access-universal service and rural build out — Version 2.0", moderated by Darrell Owen, Global Broadband and Innovations Program, United States Agency for International Development.

30. An introductory statement was made by Andrew Reynolds, Vice-Chair of the Commission and Senior Adviser, Space and Advanced Technologies, United States Department of State.

31. Presentations were made by Kofi Attor, Chief Executive Officer of Ghana Investment Fund for Electronic Communication; Parvez Iftikhar, former Chief Executive Officer, Universal Service Fund Company; Guillermo Cruz, former Chief Executive Officer, Compartel; and David Townsend, Consultant, Universal Service Fund Company.

32. A dialogue followed in which the representatives of Peru, Portugal, Austria, Costa Rica, Ghana and Tunisia participated.

33. The Chair made a statement.

34. At its 6th meeting, on 23 May, an introductory statement was made by the representative of the secretariat of UNCTAD.

35. Statements were made by the keynote speakers, Rolf-Dieter Heuer, Director-General of the Conseil Européen pour la Recherche Nucléaire; and Shirley Malcom, Head of the Directorate of Education and Human Resources Programs, American Association for the Advancement of Science.

36. A dialogue with the keynote speakers ensued, in which the representatives of the United States of America, the Russian Federation, Costa Rica, Tunisia, Austria and the Dominican Republic participated.

37. The representative of the Association for Progressive Communications also participated.

38. Presentations under sub-item (a) were made by Dominique Foray, Full Professor, Chair in Economics and Management of Innovation, École Polytechnique Fédérale de Lausanne; and Adel Torjmen, Vice-President, Tunisian Association for Communication and Technology (TACT).

39. Presentations under sub-item (b) were made by Taffere Tesfachew, Director of the Division for Africa, Least Developed Countries and Special Programmes, UNCTAD; Espen Volden, Group on Earth Observation secretariat; and Emanuele Gennai, Environmental Systems Research Institute, Geneva.

40. The Commission then began its general discussion and heard statements by the representatives of Sri Lanka, Turkey and the Russian Federation.

Action taken by the Commission

Science and technology for development

41. At its 9th meeting, on 25 May, the Commission had before it a draft resolution entitled "Science and technology for development", submitted by the Chair, which was circulated in English only.

42. The Commission was informed that the draft text contained no programme budget implications.

43. The Commission adopted the draft resolution and recommended it to the Economic and Social Council for adoption (see chap. I, sect. A, draft resolution II).

Draft decision proposed by the Chair

44. At its 9th meeting, on 25 May, on the proposal of the Chair, the Commission decided to take note of the following documents (see chap. 1, sect. C, decision 15/101):

(a) Report of the Secretary-General on innovation, research, technology transfer for mutual advantage, entrepreneurship and collaborative development in the information society (E/CN.16/2012/2);

(b) Report of the Secretary-General on open access, virtual science libraries, geospatial analysis and other complementary information and communications technology and science, technology, engineering and mathematics assets to address development issues, with particular attention to education (E/CN.16/2012/3).

Chapter IV

Presentation of reports on science and technology and innovation policy reviews

45. The Commission considered item 4 of its agenda at its 7th meeting, on 24 May 2012, and heard an introductory statement by the Director, Division on Technology and Logistics, UNCTAD.

Implementation of the science, technology and innovation policy review of Angola

46. A statement was made by João Sebastião Teta, Deputy Minister for Telecommunications of Angola.

Presentation of the science, technology and innovation policy review of Peru

47. A presentation was made by the Officer-in-Charge, Policy Review Section, Science and Technology and ICT Branch, UNCTAD.

48. A statement was made by Miguel Palomino de la Gala, Director for Science and Technology, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Peru.

49. Statements were made by the representatives of Mexico and Spain.

Presentation of the science, technology and innovation policy review of El Salvador

50. A presentation was made by the Officer-in-Charge, Policy Review Section, Science and Technology and ICT Branch, UNCTAD.

51. A statement was made by Mario Roger Hernández, Vice-Minister of Economy of El Salvador.

52. Statements were made by the representatives of the United States of America and Brazil.

53. The representative of the secretariat of UNCTAD made closing remarks.

Chapter V

Election of the Chair and other officers for the sixteenth session of the Commission

54. The Commission considered item 5 of its agenda at its 8th meeting, on 24 May 2012.

55. The Commission elected by acclamation the following officers for its sixteenth session:

Chair:

Miguel Palomino de la Gala (Peru)

Vice-Chairs:

Thato Regina Mosisili (Lesotho)
Andrew Reynolds (United States of America)
Peter Major (Hungary)

56. A statement was made by the representative of Costa Rica, on behalf of the Group of Latin American and Caribbean States.

57. A statement was made by the representative of the Russian Federation, on behalf of the Group of Eastern European States.

58. A statement was made by Miguel Palomino de la Gala (Peru), the newly elected Chair of the sixteenth session.

59. At its 9th meeting, on 25 May, the Commission elected Mohammad Kazem Asayesh Talab Tousi (Islamic Republic of Iran) as Vice-Chair of the sixteenth session.

60. The Commission postponed the election of the Rapporteur to the next session.

Chapter VI

Provisional agenda and documentation for the sixteenth session of the Commission

61. The Commission considered item 6 of its agenda at its 9th meeting, on 25 May 2012. It had before it an informal paper containing the draft provisional agenda and documentation for its sixteenth session.

62. The Commission approved a draft decision on the provisional agenda and documentation for its sixteenth session, and recommended it to the Economic and Social Council for adoption (see chap. I, sect. B).

Chapter VII

Adoption of the report of the Commission on its fifteenth session

63. At its 9th meeting, on 25 May 2012, the Commission had before it the draft report on its fifteenth session (E/CN.16/2012/L.1).

64. At the same meeting, the Commission adopted the draft report on its fifteenth session and entrusted the Rapporteur with its completion.

Chapter VIII
Organization of the session

A. Opening and duration of the session

65. The Commission on Science and Technology for Development held its fifteenth session at the United Nations Office at Geneva from 21 to 25 May 2012. The Commission held 10 meetings (1st to 9th).

66. The session was opened by the Chair, Fortunato de la Peña (Philippines), who also made a statement.

67. Also at the 1st meeting, on 21 May, the Secretary-General of UNCTAD made a statement.

68. At the same meeting, statements were made by: Hamadoun Touré, Secretary-General of the International Telecommunication Union; Richard Robert Ernst, Nobel Laureate, ETH Zürich; Subramanian Ramadorai, Vice-Chair, Tata Consultancy Services (on behalf of ICC BASIS); Daniel Reed, Corporate Vice-President, Technology Policy Group of Microsoft; and Marília Maciel, Project Leader and Researcher, Centre for Technology and Society, Fundação Getulio Vargas (on behalf of civil society).

B. Attendance

69. The list of participants for the session is contained in document E/CN.16/2012/INF/1.

C. Election of officers

70. At the 9th meeting of its fourteenth session, on 27 May 2011, the Commission had elected the following members of the Bureau of its fifteenth session by acclamation:

Chair:

Fortunato de la Peña (Philippines)

Vice-Chairs:

Miguel Palomino de la Gala (Peru)
Andrew Reynolds (United States of America)

71. At its 1st meeting, on 21 May, the Commission elected Ahmed Mustapha (Ghana) to serve as Vice-Chair of the Commission, as Sherry Ayitey (Ghana) was no longer able to serve in that capacity. The Commission elected Peter Major (Hungary) to serve as Vice-Chair, and designated him to serve as the Rapporteur of the fifteenth session of the Commission.

D. Agenda and organization of work

72. At its 1st meeting, on 21 May, following a statement by the representative of Sri Lanka and clarification by the Secretary, the Commission adopted the

provisional agenda for the session and approved its organization of work, as contained in document E/CN.16/2012/1. The agenda read as follows:

1. Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters.
2. Progress made in the implementation of and follow-up to the World Summit on the Information Society outcomes at the regional and international levels.
3. Priority themes:
   (a) Innovation, research, technology transfer for mutual advantage, entrepreneurship and collaborative development in the information society;
   (b) Open access, virtual science libraries, geospatial analysis and other complementary information and communications technology and science, technology, engineering and mathematics assets to address development issues, with particular attention to education.
4. Presentation of reports on science, technology and innovation policy reviews.
5. Election of the Chair and other officers for the sixteenth session of the Commission.
6. Provisional agenda and documentation for the sixteenth session of the Commission.
7. Adoption of the report of the Commission on its fifteenth session.

73. At the same meeting, the Commission approved the proposed organization of work, as contained in an informal paper circulated in English only.

E. Documentation

74. The list of documents before the Commission at its fifteenth session is contained in the annex to the present document.

Annex

List of documents before the Commission at its fifteenth session

Document symbol	*Agenda item*	*Title or description*
E/CN.16/2012/1	1	Provisional annotated agenda and organization of work
A/67/66-E/2012/49	2	Report of the Secretary-General on progress made in the implementation of and follow-up to the outcomes of the World Summit on the Information Society at the regional and international levels
A/67/65-E/2012/48	2	Report of the Working Group on Improvements to the Internet Governance Forum
E/CN.16/2012/CRP.2	2	Report of the Chair on the open consultations on enhanced cooperation on international public policy issues pertaining to the Internet
E/CN.16/2012/2	3 (a)	Report of the Secretary-General on innovation, research, technology transfer for mutual advantage, entrepreneurship and collaborative development in the information society
E/CN.16/2012/3	3 (b)	Report of the Secretary-General on open access, virtual science libraries, geospatial analysis and other complementary information and communications technology and science, technology, engineering and mathematics assets to address development issues, with particular attention to education
E/CN.16/2012/L.1	7	Draft report of the Commission on its fifteenth session
E/CN.16/2012/CRP.1	2 and 3	Summary report prepared by the UNCTAD secretariat on the meeting of the intersessional panel of the Commission, held in Manila from 13 to 15 December 2011
E/CN.16/2012/INF/1		List of participants

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